

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 cancelled.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to Claim ~~14~~21, including adding a drug to the pores of the article.

-- 21. (New) A method of making a porous article composed of bonded particles and having a predetermined level of porosity, pore size and interconnectivity, the method consisting essentially of:

- a) forming a dispersion comprising a liquid carrier, particles to be bonded and a polymerizable monomeric material;
 - b) adding a surfactant and then introducing small bubbles of oxygen containing gas into the dispersion with agitation to form a foam which is allowed or caused to coalesce;
 - c) polymerizing the foamed structure;
 - d) adjusting the period from the formation of the foam to the start of the polymerization by adding initiator and catalyst therefor at rates selected to influence the structure of the pores to be present in the porous article;
 - e) drying the structure to remove the liquid carrier and provide a solid article having pores derived from the bubbles; and
- firing the article to a temperature to remove the organic material and to undersinter the

formed article and thereby form the porous article which has a porosity of 20% to 95% and comprises pore walls and struts defining pores of pore sizes in the range of 15 to 150 micrometers and in which bone cells may easily be attached.

22. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the period until onset of polymerization is between an instantaneous polymerization and about 20 minutes.

23. (New) The method according to Claim 21, including the step of controlling the onset of polymerization by adjusting addition levels of an initiator and catalyst for polymerization of the monomeric material.

24. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the particles in the dispersion are less than about 5 micrometers.

25. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the particles are hydroxyapatite, oxides and non-oxides.

26. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the content of the solids in the dispersion is about 10% to about 90% by weight.

27. (New) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the content of the solids is about 40% to about 80% by weight.

28. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the liquid carrier is water, organic liquid or a mixture thereof.

29. (New) The method according to Claim 21, including the step of adding a dispersing agent to the dispersion.

30. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the solid article is substantially dried and then fired at about 1250°C for two hours.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the solid article is dried and then fired at about 1350°C for about two hours.

32. (New) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has a true porosity of from about 20% to about 95%.

33. (New) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has pores in the pore size range of about 5 micrometers to about 20 micrometers.

34. (New) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has pores in the pore size range of about 50 micrometers to about 150 micrometers.

35. (New) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has pores having a pore size greater than about 150 micrometers.

36. (New) A method according to Claim 21, including a subsequent step of growing bone cells in the porous product.

37. (New) A method according to Claim 21, including a subsequent step of infilling the pores of the porous product with a drug. - -